

Mary Ann Horton

Mary Ann Horton, daughter of James Massey Horton and Mary Dameron Horton was born on January 18, 1931. She married James Leland Flanagan on February 3, 1951. She and Leland had a daughter and 2 sons: Jane (Terry), Mark and Stuart.

Ann grew up in Fountain, NC. She went through school there and in Farmville, NC, graduating from high school in 1949.

Ann recalls: Fountain was a great place to live. No doors were ever locked. Everyone knew everybody and the children had lots of fun. We played games in the street until bedtime and could walk to school safely, daily. We often rode our bikes six miles to the Farmville swimming pool and spent the whole day.

She enjoyed attending Farmville High School where there were bigger classes available. There she met her friend, Nancy, whom she still keeps in touch with today. She was a good student, because she wanted to please her teacher and her parents, even though Jay Flanagan helped her get through Physics.

After football games on Friday nights, there were dances at the country club. There were roaring fires in the fireplaces at each end and a jukebox. The girls would go together and the boys would come together. That was when she first saw Leland Flanagan. He was the best dancer and was always dancing with a girl that she later learned was his sister, thank goodness. He had come home from the Navy to graduate with the class of 1947. Ann was in the tenth grade, age 15 and he was 19!! How handsome and mature he was. She and Leland soon began dancing together and dating.

After Leland graduated in 1947, he moved to Raleigh to attend business school for two years. He wrote Ann every day and hitchhiked home on the weekends. In 1949, Ann went to Meredith College in Raleigh and Leland was in Farmville working for Pitt Greene REA as an accountant living; at the Davis Hotel with his parents and sister, Ora Lee.

At age 24, Leland was ready for marriage, so Ann quit college her sophomore year in 1951 and married Leland in the Fountain Baptist church. After marriage, she lived in Farmville until 1956 and afterwards in Greenville, until 1978. She and Leland, then moved to Bath, NC on the Pamlico River, four miles East of Bath in Bayview to a house built by Leland and his landscaping crew.

Dancing was always important in their lives. They attended all the dances at all the clubs in Greenville, mostly with his sister, Aileen, and Graham Jefferson, his brother in law, both of whom loved to dance also. If the music was just right, they would forget how tired they were and all troubles would melt away on the dance floor. It was a wonderful pastime. When they moved to Bath in 1978, they joined dance clubs in Bath and in Washington. Leland was a fantastic dancer.